



Members Newsletter November 2021

A Message from the Chair

Hi everyone. Isn't it great to be attending meetings again and seeing other u3a members face to face? Although zoom meetings played an extremely useful part in maintaining connections with people over the last 18 months, there is actually nothing like being able to sit side by side, chatting with friends in one of our many Groups or listening to a speaker at the monthly meeting.

If this all still seems a little daunting at the moment for some of you, perhaps when you have had the booster jab, hopefully in the next few weeks, you may feel more inclined to come back to meetings and join in again to enable you to receive the full benefit of belonging to our fantastic organisation – Alnwick u3a.

Kathy Platt

Contents

September Monthly Meeting	p2
AGM Report	p4
Chair's Report October 2021	p5
Treasurer's Report 2020-21	p7
Committee Members 2021/22	p9
Quiz	p10
Crossword	p11
Monthly Meetings Preview	p12
Spotlight on Language Groups	p12
Tom's Tales	p13
November Photos	p14
The Alnwick Cholera Outbreak	p15
Hobbies and Interests	p17
On This Day	p18
Answers and End Piece	p19

Feedback & contributions are very welcome!

Please send any comments on this newsletter, suggestions for improvement and contributions for future editions to:

Newsletter.Alnwick.U3A@gmail.com

The next newsletter will be published on 20th December, and the contributions deadline is 17th December.

September Monthly Meeting – 16 September 2021

My love affair with North America – a talk by Trevor Robinson

At our first monthly meeting at St Michael's since February last year, Trevor Robinson gave us a presentation based on his travels in the USA and Canada. Trevor let slip, before he started his talk, that the meeting date was his birthday. Without more ado, a chorus of Happy Birthday was ringing around the hall from all present and he admitted that he'd never had so many people singing that song for him!

Then the presentation started with Trevor explaining that his interest in the USA had been prompted by the American cowboy TV programmes of the 50s and 60s, and the science fiction shows of that era, the latter fuelling his interest in US space missions. He gave us a brief history of how the USA grew from the original 13 colonies, expanding westwards. Some of the interesting points were the great Purchases; the Louisiana Purchase from France in 1803 cost \$15 million (\$342 million in today's prices) and the Alaska Purchase from Russia in 1867 cost \$7.2 million (\$125 million in today's prices). Both were bargains it seems!

Since starting to visit the US in the late 80s, Trevor has now been 27 times. Apparently, his later interest in Canada mainly stems from his youngest daughter's decision to study at a Canadian University. This gave Trevor a good enough reason for more travel. She now works there, and Trevor's next trip is already booked for 2022!

The talk was divided into five topics: Culture & History, Architecture, Landscapes, Wildlife and Space & Aviation. This review can't cover everything that Trevor included in his talk, so I have chosen some themes from each topic and included a few of the photos shown.

In the Culture and History section, there were some interesting cemeteries, each with a story. One location was the Westwood Village Memorial Park & Mortuary in Los Angeles, which had been chosen as a final resting place by many film and music stars, such as Marilyn Monroe, Jack Lemon, Peggy Lee, Roy Orbison and Frank Zappa. Another cemetery was Arlington National in Virginia, well known as the location of President John F Kennedy's grave, together with those of his brothers Robert and Edward. Of course, Graceland in Memphis Tennessee, where Elvis Presley was buried, had to be included.



Marilyn Monroe's tomb, Westwood Village, LA



The Lincoln Memorial, Washington DC

The next topic, Architecture, covered a wide range of structures, including iconic bridges like the Golden Gate Bridge, and London Bridge at Lake Havasu in Arizona. The presentation also included well known buildings, including the Twin Towers in New York - which Trevor went to the top of in the early 90s – and the familiar landmarks of Washington DC, such as the White House, the Washington Monument, and the Lincoln Memorial.

My love affair with North America – a talk by Trevor Robinson (contd)

As Trevor pointed out, North America is very large in area, so it naturally has a wide range of interesting and spectacular landscapes. Monument Valley, which spans the Arizona-Utah state line, and lies within the territory of the Navajo Nation Reservation, is characterized by a cluster of vast sandstone buttes, the largest reaching 300 m above the valley floor. The Valley has featured in many well-known movies since the early days of cinema.



Monument Valley, Utah

The presentation also covered other National Parks, such as Yellowstone, Joshua Tree and Grand Canyon in the US, and Banff and Jasper in Canada, with Niagara Falls straddling the two countries. Trevor had even taken a photo of the Falls lit up in red, white and blue, to mark the birth of Prince George in 2013.



Brown Bear catching salmon, Alaska

The Wildlife topic covered a range of creatures, of which perhaps the most impressive were bears catching salmon in Alaska, and whales in both Canada and the US. Apparently, Trevor and his wife have been on many whale-watching boat trips.

The final topic of the talk was Space & Aviation, one of his major interests. We

were shown one of Trevor's favourite Space section photos which was of Trevor standing in front of a Space Shuttle whilst wearing what was, by his own admission, a rather garish T-shirt! His family has visited the Kennedy Space Centre several times and apparently is not yet bored with it!



Trevor and Space Shuttle Atlantis

The final photo in Trevor's presentation was taken at his daughter's graduation in Canada in 2019, showing her with proud Mum and Dad.

Trevor ended his very interesting and well put together talk by showing the well-known movie clip of the 1969 Apollo 11 landing on the Moon.

For those of us who have travelled to some of the places mentioned, the presentation was a pleasant reminder, whilst for others, perhaps North America became a place to visit in the future.

Kathy Platt

AGM – 21st October 2021

The AGM, which was held at St Michael's Church Hall on Thursday, 21st October, went very well. After welcoming the 37 attendees, Kathy Platt (Chair) gave her report detailing all that had occurred in the past year; the use of 'Zoom', the quizzes and speakers and the launching of our newsletter. Kathy's full report is set out on page 5 of this newsletter.

A commemorative souvenir booklet celebrating the first 21 years of Alwick u3a was distributed to mark this milestone. In connection with this, our Honorary President, Maureen Stephenson, spoke to the meeting explaining how she had written to the Gazette 21 years ago to suggest forming a u3a and how it had flourished since then. She thanked the committee, the group leaders and especially the members for their support.

The Treasurer gave his report, explaining our financial situation and why our subs have had to be increased to £24 and warning that unless there is an increase in our membership that currently stands at 153 members, it may have to be raised again. His full report is set out on page 7 of this newsletter.

There followed the appointment of the committee. Kathy Platt has another year to serve as Chair and most other committee members have agreed to continue except Meryl McConnell who is standing down after seven years. Luckily two new volunteers have come forward; Maureen Sayers and Hazel Verhamme.

This pretty much rounded off the official business so after many thanks were offered all round it was time for tea!

After the break, we were treated to another of Andy Griffin's excellent presentations. This one marked our first 21 years by reminding us what has gone on locally and nationally since the millennium. Who could forget the Queen's lack of amusement at the New Year party at the Millennium Dome, or the slow handclap that Tony Blair was given when he addressed a WI conference? What is amusing/daunting/interesting is how some things never change. The dualling of the A1 was being discussed back then. There were fuel shortages and an epidemic. Plus ça change: but the National Office has changed our logo from U3A to u3a! Revolutionary eh? Anyway, Andy provided us with lots to enjoy recalling and chatting about.

That concluded our afternoon's business/entertainment. Roll on next month when we'll hear some Sheep's Tales (see the Preview on page 5 of this newsletter).

Meryl McConnell - Secretary

Chair's Report October 2021

When I took over from Meryl last October, we were still in the grips of the pandemic. At the first meeting of the new Committee, in November 2020, we decided that, although we couldn't hold our usual Xmas meeting, we could at least have a Xmas quiz - on zoom. Some members wore party hats or Xmas sweaters, and the afternoon, enjoyed by most - especially by those who seemed to have partaken of a little extra Xmas spirit – finished with Tom relating some merry tales.

In January 21 we held, on Zoom, our AGM, which had been postponed from the previous October. It went well, and afterwards, when I attended various regional meetings, via Zoom, I felt proud that our committee had been, possibly, the first u3a in the Region to hold an AGM this way.

Following the success of the Xmas quiz, the February monthly meeting was a Spring quiz, on zoom, again rounded off with Tom's tales.

February also saw the launch of the revamped Alnwick u3a Newsletter and which has, since then, been issued every 6 weeks instead of every 12 weeks as previously thanks to our new editor Trevor Robinson and the contributors.

From March onwards we resumed our monthly speaker meetings but, at that time, they still needed to be on zoom. At these meetings, we heard:-

Colin Gough digging up his family;

Colin Platt helping us to decide to which personality type we might belong;

Ed Cartner manhandling Prince Charles [and attempting to do the same with Prince Andrew, but he wasn't so interested];

Bryn Owen gave us the lowdown on the Battle of Flodden;

and in the final zoom monthly meeting, George Ellames talked about penitenti and all that sort of thing – and if you're wondering what that was all about – well, you're never going to know now!

So, my thanks to Colin and Colin, Ed, Bryn, and George for providing informative and fascinating zoom talks.

At our first face to face monthly presentation for 20/21, in September, Trevor Robinson told us all about his love affair with North America! Thanks Trevor.

Chair's Report October 2021 (contd)

Last year, the committee started to plan a big party for August 2020, to celebrate the 20th birthday of our u3a, but because of covid, the plans had to be postponed until this year. Unfortunately, with the virus persisting, August 2021 was also out of the question. So, in March, as a way of acknowledging Alnwick u3a's first 21 years, I had the idea that we could create and print a small Booklet, to give to each member. The Booklet would give a flavour of Alnwick u3a and show some of the things its members have been involved in over the years. I thought our Honorary President, Maureen Stephenson, would be the ideal person to get the project up and running and I'm pleased to say that she agreed to participate.

At this point, therefore, I'd like to say a huge thank you to Maureen, and to the other two members of the editorial team, Dilys Carter and Peter Carter, and, of course, a thank you to all the contributors, without whom there wouldn't be a booklet. I'd also like to offer a special thank you to Trevor, the layout man - for want of a better description - who joined the editorial team later, but who never once complained about the numerous changes he had to make, even when the process reached our 37th test print before the Booklet was finally sent to the printers. The finished result is what you see in front of you, and I hope you enjoy reading it.

Recently, you'll have received a new Welcome Pack. Although originally designed just for new members, the committee decided that all members should have one, as this Pack replaces the Yellow Booklet. All details relating to Alnwick u3a are shown in the Welcome Pack and periodically, these details will be updated on our website or hard copies updates will be issued for those not on-line yet.

I'd like to thank all members of the committee for their work and commitment during the last year. This has enabled us to keep going throughout the pandemic - unlike some u3as that just shut up shop and hunkered down waiting for it all to go away. I'd also like to thank many of the Group Leaders who have kept their groups going on zoom, almost from the beginning of the lockdowns. In fact, once we all recovered from the initial shock of living with the threat of Covid, it was all hands to the zoom pumps - as it were. Let's hope that we can look forward to normal service being resumed in the coming year, whilst still proceeding with caution.

Thank you all for your support, for which your committee, is most grateful. Not only your support in returning to live meetings now, but also to those members who paid their subs for 20/21, even though they didn't feel able to participate in the zoom meetings. We're grateful to you all and it's great to see you here today. You're the mainstay of Alnwick u3a and you've helped to keep this show on the road during a difficult year. Long may it continue, thanks again.

Kathy Platt, Chair

Treasurer's Report 2020-21

This report covers the period from 1st September 2020 to 31st August 2021. The accounts were examined by Bryan Ellis and this was carried out satisfactorily and without issue, on 19th September. I haven't this year included an update on our Social Account for the very obvious reason that activity in this in the past year was, not surprisingly, zero.

Our overall Income for last year was £3153.24, which compares with £4357.90 the year before. Income for both these years was down on previously as a consequence of the Covid situation. A better comparison would be with 2018-9, which was £5277.15. In 2020-1, as we could not hold face-to-face meetings and paid no rent, we temporarily reduced our subscriptions to £10 to cover essential costs. Our expenditure was £1881.63 which compares with £5295.11 the previous year. This reflects our not paying any rent. This means that last year we had a surplus of £1271.61 in comparison with a deficit of £937.21 the year previously. However, this surplus (and income) is boosted by £348 of subscriptions for 2021-2 which were paid early. So our surplus for last year should really have been £923.61 which effectively recoups our deficit (£937.21) of the year before.

In this past year we received Subscriptions from 161 members whereas the previous year this figure was 196. This was a significant fall, but to be expected with a number of members no doubt deciding not to rejoin while we could only hold meetings via Zoom. It was very gratifying to the Committee that so many of you – especially those who did not want to take part in Zoom meetings - were willing to maintain your membership while we were able to provide you with so little. We really do owe you our thanks.

Our Income was boosted last year by our applying for and receiving a Grant of £750 from the Sir James Knott Trust to be spent on IT equipment. This accounts for the corresponding significant increase in equipment expenditure. We also received £90 from the Alnwick Local History Society for Printing and £300 from St Michaels, which was a refund of the £300 we mistakenly overpaid last year, because they mistakenly billed for July 2020. Taking into account all these exceptional items, our income was actually £1665.24.

So at the end of August we brought forward £1881.63 (+ £35.32 in petty cash) into the New Financial Year. This compares with £1973.81 (+ £148.32 in petty cash) last year. This is about what it should be, maybe a little bit low, as we are advised to maintain funds for about 6 months as reserves.

Now we need to touch on our current situation. We are very lucky that we have been able to return to St Michaels at the same rent as we left it, but we do need a certain number of members to pay for this. Our Capitation fees, which are what we pay each year to the Third Age Trust, and the cost of Third Age Matters, are tied to our membership numbers, so both went down in 2021 as we had reduced membership. But we know that the Capitation Fees will increase by 50p per member in 2022.

Treasurer's Report 2020-21 (contd)

Our unavoidable expenses this coming year will be over £4000. At the last AGM we agreed to increase our annual subscription to £24 from £21. This increase came with a warning that, in order to continue here at St Michaels if our membership numbers didn't recover following the Covid Crisis, then a further increase would be required. I am not proposing such an increase today; we still do not know to what degree our numbers will recover. In my opinion, we need a membership of at least 175. Before Covid we had been around 200 for many years. Currently we are 153 but I would expect more subs to come in yet. We may need to increase our subs for 2022-3, and this will require an EGM to be called sometime later this year to enable this. But a much better answer is to get our numbers back closer to what they were. And we all have a responsibility to help with this by talking up u3a membership to our friends. There may be other ways of temporarily bridging this gap by applying for Grants but these are very competitive as many clubs and societies are suffering in the same way.

I have already this year received questions from people asking why our subs are £24 a year while those for some other local u3as are around £9, and this is clearly a significant difference. For a number of years, u3as have been moving from the model we use, where members pay an annual fee and then can attend any meetings they want without further payment, to one where subscriptions are much lower and just cover Capitation and TAM, but then members would have to pay to attend each Group meeting. I suspect that this is the model applied at these other u3as. This shift was in at least part driven by HMRC defining subscriptions that might be eligible for Gift Aid as simply those enabling a member to attend and vote at an AGM, i.e. be a member of the society. Anything else, such as rent for a premise, was outside subscriptions and seen as a separate benefit. A couple of years ago we enquired to HMRC about Gift Aid and discovered this. We discussed this issue in Committee and decided to forego Gift Aid and continue as we were. If we moved to the new model then each Group Co-ordinator, or someone else nominated within a group, would have to collect monies from attendees each time and transfer that money to me after every meeting for me to pay their bills – as, within the u3a, Groups cannot be financially independent. If each Group separately hired rooms here for their meetings, or elsewhere, the cost involved would be a lot greater in total than what we pay here for a block booking. We know this. Of course an alternative would be for a lot more groups to meet only in people's homes, but many groups are just too big for this or use equipment which we conveniently store here.

If you have questions about any of the above, please get in touch.

George Ellames [Treasurer]

Committee Members 2021/22

The Committee members are elected annually at the Annual General Meeting, which this year was held on 21st October.

Committee roles, listed below, were agreed at the meeting of the Committee held on 1st November.

Maureen Stephenson	Honorary President
Kathy Platt	Chair
Anne McMillan	Vice Chair and Groups Coordinator
Trevor Robinson	Vice Chair and IT
Maureen Sayers	Secretary
George Ellames	Treasurer
Pat Ashton	Membership Secretary
Hazel Verhamme	Social Secretary
Tom Burroughs	Committee Member
Julia Grieveson	Committee Member
Doris Hinshaw	Committee Member

Science Group Outing

We have talked in Science Group about visiting Kielder Observatory to attend one of their astronomy events. I wondered if any other u3a members might also be interested. It would probably be in early March next year. The Observatory website gives lots of information about what is on offer, together with prices and times - <https://kielderobservatory.org>.

If anyone is interested, please email me at trevor.robinson2@btinternet.com

Trevor Robinson

A different type of quiz

DINGBATS SET A

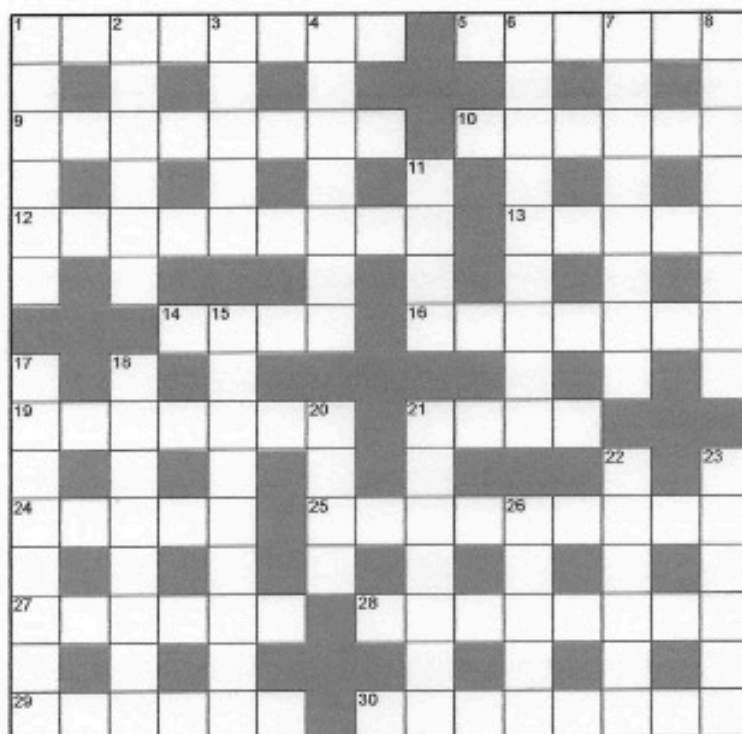
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09	10	11	12

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09	10	11	12

Answers are on the last page

Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 A fishy tale (3,5)
- 5 Rushes about looking for attendants (6)
- 9 Stressed over the puddings (8)
- 10 Iron man turns out to be a woman (6)
- 12 Statesman likes nothing more than a cup of coffee (9)
- 13 Savour the flavour (5)
- 14 Throw a line to the thespians (4)
- 16 Can fine adjustment really affect money matters? (7)
- 19 Dessert that'll probably fall apart (7)
- 21 Annoy a police informer (4)
- 24 The result of two quartets singing together? (5)
- 25 An all-night radio show listener? (9)
- 27 Just one country in an international set-up (6)
- 28 Ship named after Cromwell (8)
- 29 Spatter something on the front page (6)
- 30 A dark period of the war (8)

DOWN

- 1 It's such an unpleasant experience having to reload differently (6)
- 2 After the meals comes the washing up (6)
- 3 Boudicca fought for them (5)
- 4 Take out a passage from the text (7)
- 6 Saccharin offered as an inducement (9)
- 7 For time to be passing by like this is strangely pleasing (8)
- 8 Gathered some food for grilling (8)
- 11 Hit back at the sport (4)
- 15 Troublesome bird you'll want to avoid, unless you're a golfer of course (9)
- 17 Financial stories (8)
- 18 The cost of building a u-boat? (8)
- 20 One of many to be negotiated at a roundabout (4)
- 21 It's for you to take in the air (7)
- 22 For the Italian, it's all over (6)
- 23 A mark that goes on top of a letter (6)
- 26 An old bloke of 99 who's neurotic (5)

Preview –Monthly Meeting on 18th November

“Sheep’s Tales and Spinning Yarns” - Margaret Brown, a busy farmer from the Wooler area, takes time out to show mystery objects and talk about the Cheviot way of life.

Christmas Meeting on 16th December

“A Saggy Old Cloth Cat” - Sandra Kerr will share her memories of writing the Songs & Music, and acting in “Bagpuss”. She is an internationally renowned folk singer and also, for the last 10 years, has been lecturer at Newcastle University running a course on Folk & Traditional Music.

This meeting will also include our traditional Christmas Festivities. This was unfortunately cancelled last year because of Covid, so this year’s Festivities will be welcome all the more.

Do come along to our Monthly meetings – don’t miss out! And definitely don’t miss out on our Christmas Social Event!!

Spotlight on an Interest Group - Spanish

Irregular radical changing verbs or plain regular? Present or Imperfect Subjunctive? The Spanish group covers a variety of topics and it isn’t all grammar. The command of Spanish in the group is varied, with some who have worked and travelled in Spain or South America combined with those who have mastered other languages and fancy learning one more, and some who have an intermediate level and just want to practice. We are fortunate in that each member is able to contribute from their experience or through outright enthusiasm and interest.

The group meets twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday mornings and aims to run, well more stroll, through the four skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking in each class with a little bit of grammar thrown in. We are working our way through an advanced Spanish course book supplemented with some speaking practice.

New joiners who have a grasp of Spanish are welcome.

John Craig, Group Leader

Keeping to a language theme, here also is the spotlight on the French and German Groups

French Group

We are a very informal group, who meet together to brush up on forgotten French, while attempting to bring our vocabulary up to date. We use a variety of resources, including text books and accompanying cds to give us structure, reading books, articles from contemporary newspapers and any leaflets and other miscellaneous materials that members bring along.

We try to practise everyday conversation as much as possible. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month from 10 - 12 at St Michael's.

German Group

We are an informal group of members with varied experience of the language, from those who learned German at school or adult classes to those who joined us as absolute beginners. We supplement our main text book with a variety of materials, including other text books, reading books, articles, worksheets and relevant bits and pieces contributed by members.

We practise spoken German as much as possible and try to become familiar with everyday words and phrases. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month from 10 - 12 at St Michael's.

Maureen Stevenson, Leader of both Groups

Tom's Tales

Marriage is like a game of cards. To begin with you need 2 hearts and a diamond. In the end you wish you had a club and a spade.

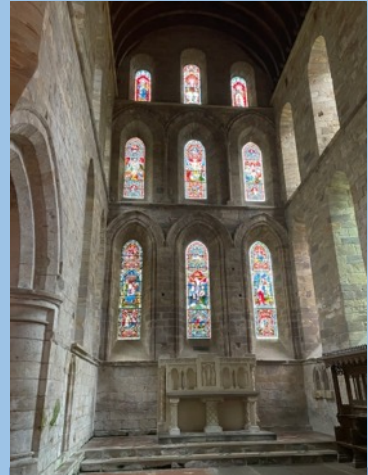
From Tom Burroughs

November Photos

This month's theme is stained glass windows, all located in Northumberland. All photos taken by Trevor Robinson



Tynemouth Priory



Brinkburn Priory



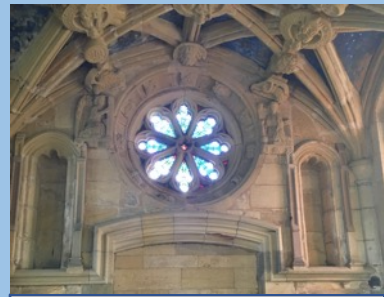
Brinkburn Priory



Hesleyside Hall (courtesy Anna Charlton)



Cragside

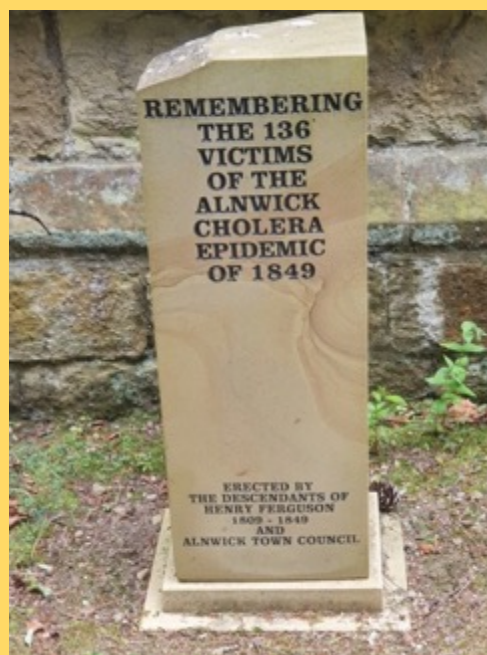


Tynemouth Priory

THE ALNWICK CHOLERA OUTBREAK OF 1849

The cholera memorial stone opposite was installed at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 but has only recently been commemorated by the Reverend Canon Paul Scott in a dedication ceremony at St Michael's Church.

The cholera outbreak of 1849 left Alnwick devastated at the loss of 136 citizens of the town. Given that the Alnwick authorities were overwhelmed by so many deaths between the period 12th September – 24th October, the majority of victims were buried in mass graves to the rear of St Michael's churchyard.



The map above shows the area of the town where the site of fatal cases of cholera during outbreak in October 1849 were located. The cases are indicated on the plan; the blue spot shows the position of some of the water pumps. There were deaths across the town, but the majority were in the Clayport area, which housed some of the poorest families in Alnwick.

THE ALNWICK CHOLERA OUTBREAK OF 1849 (contd)

Many people in the town lived in overcrowded rooms or houses within shared cramped tenement style yards in damp, and dirty conditions. It was common to see middens with human waste discharging into open sewers.



The water pants in the town provided a source of water for the families. Most were contaminated; at that time cholera was not known to be a waterborne disease.

Until the 1850's all domestic water had to be transported from these pants and wells. It was normally carried on the head, in a wooden pail called a "skeel" which held about six gallons.

An independent inquiry into the tragedy in Alnwick, was led by Robert Rawlinson, a sanitary engineer. From his personal visits to the houses in Alnwick struck by cholera, he came down on a view that unclean water supplies, overcrowding and terrible sanitation lay at the heart of the problem.

The Rawlinson report led to Alnwick gaining a new, clean water supply and, in time, proper sanitation. Between 1852 and 1855 the Board of Health carried out extensive work to improve the water and sewage systems of the town.

By 1858, around 90% of properties in Alnwick had been connected to the water mains, and by the mid-1860's all but a couple of houses were connected. However, the pants continued to be used. Some were even rebuilt in more decorative form in the late nineteenth century. Although others were closed because the water was deemed unsafe, and several were damaged when hit by vehicles, most of the pants were left in place, and maintained - and so remain to this day.

Maureen Sayers

Hobbies and Interests

This is a regular item for the Newsletter, where u3a members can tell us all about their hobbies and interests. If anyone would like to write something for a future Newsletter, please do contact us at Newsletter.Alnwick.U3A@gmail.com.

My interest in craft knitting and sewing, by Doris Hinshaw

I haven't always liked knitting. I had to knit my school scarf but I persuaded my granny to knit mine and then took the credit!!

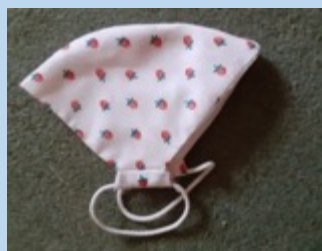
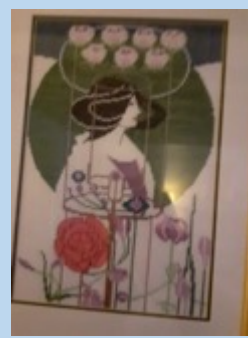
I did needlework as an extra 'O' level whilst taking my 'A' levels, and was introduced to cross stitch, Spanish Blackwork and Hardanger (counted thread work), which I loved. Later in life but before children, I took City and Guilds 'Dress and Design' which is a high standard of dressmaking. I have made three bridal gowns plus my own and several bridesmaids dresses.

Most of my dressmaking however was making my own clothes; for example, a mini skirt. I bought 1/2yd of material, made it in the afternoon and wore it at night! My children wore my knitted matinee coats, Dennis the Menace jumpers and even duffel coats. Now I just alter clothes that were bought as bargains but of good quality.

I belong to the Hospice crafters and we make a variety of things that can be sold to raise money for the Hospice. These include bunting, shopping bags, cross stitch Christmas cards, aprons etc. We sell these at a variety of venues such as Linden Hall, Open Gardens and Alnwick market. All for a good cause.

My craft has advanced greatly from my knitted scarf!!!

Doris Hinshaw



On This Day – 1st November

If you were at the History Group Meeting on 6th October, you would have enjoyed the entertaining presentation Andy Griffin gave us, all about the Keelmen of Tyneside.

While looking for something which happened on 1st November, I came across this excerpt from a newspaper printed in 1765.

I usually read my 'on this day' local history items in 'The Geordie Diary'. The book is available to buy and there's also a Facebook Page which posts daily.

1765 Nov 1 "There was a great storm at sea, which continued for several days. Two Cobles, with six men in them, were sunk at sea, off Alnmouth, and two men perished in another boat in company, but the third man brought the two deceased ashore. Four fishing boats, belonging to Holy Island, and two belonging to Bowmer, with four men in each, were overset and all perished. Two wherries, in the river Tyne, were sunk, but, by assistance, no lives were lost. Upwards of sixteen keels were driven out of the river at Sunderland, and sunk at sea, by which upwards of thirty Keelmen were lost, most of whose bodies were afterwards washed on to the sands. There were twenty-two widows, and fifty three children left by the sufferers. A very liberal subscription was raised for their relief."

I think that there may be a transcription error, maybe Bowmer should be Boulmer. Has anyone heard of Bowmer?

*Anne McMillan
History Group Leader*



HMP Northumberland - Independent Monitoring Board

As you may be aware, Her Majesty's Prison Northumberland is situated in Acklington. It is a large male prison for those who have committed less serious offences (category C) and is situated on the site of a former air force base, RAF Acklington.

As part of its commitment to the UN Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture, the UK has established Independent Monitoring Boards (IMB) for every prison in the country. The IMB is made up of volunteers who live locally to the prison and its role is to monitor the welfare of the prisoners.

Monitoring is carried out by visiting the prison, speaking to the prisoners and monitoring the services and accommodation. As the name implies the IMB is independent of the prison establishment. It is a worthwhile volunteering opportunity, which contributes to the criminal justice system; I have been a member since March 2020 and have found it very interesting and rewarding. The IMB for HMP Northumberland is always looking for new members, and details can be found on the IMB website www.imb.org.uk; the closing date for the current recruitment round is 28 November. If you are interested and would like to have a chat, please feel free to contact me.

Cathy Robinson (07711 022913)

DINGBAT ANSWERS

SET A

1. Eavesdropping
2. Just between you and me
3. I understand
4. Lemonade
5. I'm in-between jobs
6. Goatee
7. Growing old
8. H2O
9. Unfinished Symphony
10. Hole in one
11. Tenants
12. Slipped Disc

SET B

1. Toucan
2. Square dance
3. Leftovers
4. Going round in circles
5. Day in, day out
6. Count Dracula
7. Mixed Greens
8. No left turn
9. Tutu
10. Lucile Ball
11. Help Line
12. Suspended Animation

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS - 1 Old Wives. 5 Ushers. 9 Desserts. 10 Female. 12 Americano. 13 Taste. 14 Cast. 16 Finance. 19 Crumble. 21 Nark. 24 Octet. 25 Insomniac. 27 Nation. 28 Ironside. 29 Splash. 30 Blackout.

DOWN - 1 Ordeal. 2 Dishes. 3 Icen. 4 Extract. 6 Sweetener. 7 Elapsing. 8 Skewered. 11 Golf. 15 Albatross. 17 Accounts. 18 Subtotal. 20 Exit. 21 Nostril. 22 Finito. 23 Accent. 26 Manic.

End piece

Haiku

*The swallows have gone
the harvest is gathered and
autumn feels its way*

Mary Atkinson